

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NAIROB 13473 011103Z

43

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4488

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 13473

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, ITE

SUBJECT: NEXT INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

REF: STATE 289045

1. MINISTER FOR LABOR JAMES NYAMWEYA IS GENERALLY REGARDED HERE AS COMPETENT ADMINISTRATOR. HE IS MODERATE BY AFRICAN STANDARDS. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND FROM WELL PLACED SOURCE IN KENYA LABOR CIRCLES THAT HE (NYAMWEYA) IS GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO GROUP OF 77 POSITIONS ON LABOR AS OPPOSED TO STRICTLY POLITICAL ILO ISSUES.

2. AN OBSTACLE TO NYAMWEYA'S ELECTION AS ILC PRESIDENT IS FACT THAT KENYA IS SUSPECT AND UNPOPULAR IN RADICAL THIRD WORLD CIRCLES. WE JUDGE LIKELIHOOD THAT KENYAN COULD WIN PRESIDENCY AS SMALL. SMALL CHANCE THAT DOES EXIST MIGHT BE ELIMINATED BY PREMATURE INDICATION THAT U.S. ENDORSING HIS POTENTIAL CANDIDACY.

3. NYAMWEYA HAS AGREED VISIT U.S. ON STATE DEPARTMENT LEADER GRANT IN APRIL-MAY 1977. THIS VISIT WILL AFFORD USG AND U.S. LABOR LEADERS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO SIZE HIM UP FIRST HAND SHORTLY BEFORE JUNE ILO MEETING CONVENES.
MARSHALL

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